

Application Serial No. 09/888,410
Amendment dated 11 July 2003
Reply to Office Action mailed 11 April 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, including listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An absorbent, comprising:

a fibrous cellulose component;

a particulate cellulose component, wherein the particulate cellulose component comprises sander fines;

and a binding agent;

wherein said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component are intermixed and said binding agent binds said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component.

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Claim 2 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises wood fibers.

Claim 3 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises fiber pile.

Claim 4 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises chip wash solids.

Claim 5 (original): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises fiber waste.

Claim 6 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises wood fiber fines.

Claim 7 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises sawdust.

Claim 8 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises wood flour.

Claim 9 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises wood dust.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (original): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a light weight oil.

Claim 12 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a light weight petroleum oil.

Claim 13 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a mineral oil.

Claim 14 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a mineral seal oil.

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Claim 15 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a vegetable oil.

Claim 16 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a soybean oil.

Claim 17 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a soap product.

β1 Claim 18 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises a detergent.

Claim 19 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 1, further comprising a rice hulls component.

Claim 20 (~~original~~): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

7 Claim ~~21~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

8 Claim ~~22~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent comprises about 0.05 percent to about 15 percent of said absorbent by volume.

9 Claim ~~23~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 59 percent, said particulate cellulose component comprises about 40 percent, and said binding agent comprises about 1 percent of said absorbent.

10 Claim ~~24~~ (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 24.5 percent, said particulate cellulose component comprises about 24.5 percent, said rice hulls comprises about 50 percent, and said binding agent comprises about 1 percent of said absorbent.

21 Claim ~~25~~ (currently amended): A method of making an absorbent, comprising the steps of: mixing a fibrous cellulose component with a particulate cellulose component, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises sander fines; and adding a binding agent to said mixture to bind said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component.

B1 22 Claim ~~26~~ (currently amended): The method of claim ~~25~~²¹, wherein said fibrous cellulose component ~~being~~ is selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines.

[Claim 27 (canceled).

23 Claim ~~28~~ (currently amended): The method of claim ~~25~~²¹, wherein said binding agent ~~being~~ is selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product, and a detergent.

24 Claim ~~29~~ (withdrawn): The method of claim ~~25~~²¹, further comprising the step of providing a rice hulls component, with said rice hulls component being mixed with said fibrous wood component and said particulate wood component.

25 Claim ~~30~~ (currently amended): The method of claim ~~25~~²¹, further comprising the step of screening said fibrous cellulose component before mixing with ~~said fibrous cellulose component or~~ said particulate cellulose component.

26 Claim ~~31~~ (currently amended): An absorbent, comprising:
a fibrous wood component;
a particulate wood component, wherein said particulate wood component comprises sander fines; and

a binding agent;
wherein said fibrous wood component and said particulate wood component are intermixed and said binding agent binds said fibrous wood component and said particulate wood component.

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Claim 32 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said fibrous wood component comprises wood fibers.

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Claim 33 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said fibrous wood component comprises fiber pile.

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Claim 34 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said fibrous wood component comprises chip wash solids.

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Claim 35 (original): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said fibrous wood component comprises fiber waste.

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Claim 36 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said fibrous wood component comprises wood fiber fines.

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Claim 37 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said particulate wood component comprises sawdust.

Claim 38 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said particulate wood component comprises wood flour.

Claim 39 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said particulate wood component comprises wood dust.

Claim 40 (canceled).

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Claim 41 (original): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~²⁶, wherein said binding agent comprises a light weight oil.

B1 Claim 42 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~²⁶, wherein said binding agent comprises a light weight petroleum oil.

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Claim 43 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~²⁶, wherein said binding agent comprises a mineral seal oil.

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Claim 44 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~²⁶, wherein said binding agent comprises a vegetable oil.

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Claim 45 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~²⁶, wherein said binding agent comprises a soybean oil.

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Claim 46 (~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~²⁶, wherein said binding agent comprises a soap product.

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37²⁶ Claim ~~47~~(~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said binding agent comprises a detergent.

38²⁶ Claim ~~48~~(~~withdrawn~~): The absorbent of claim 31, further comprising rice hulls.

39²⁶ Claim ~~49~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said fibrous wood component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

40²⁶ Claim ~~50~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said particulate wood component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

41²⁶ Claim ~~51~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said binding agent comprises about 0.05 percent to about 15 percent of said absorbent.

42²⁶ Claim ~~52~~ (original): The absorbent of claim 31, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 59 percent, said particulate cellulose component comprises about 40 percent, and said binding agent comprises about 1 percent of said absorbent.

44²⁶ Claim ~~53~~ (currently amended): A method of making an absorbent, comprising the steps of:
providing a fibrous wood component;
providing a particulate wood component, wherein said particulate wood component comprises sander fines;
mixing said fibrous wood component and said particulate wood component; and
adding a binding agent to said mixture to bind said fibrous wood component and said particulate wood component.

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47 Claim ~~54~~ (original): The method of claim ~~53~~, with said fibrous wood component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines.

[Claim 55 (canceled).

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48 Claim ~~56~~ (original): The method of claim ~~53~~, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product, and a detergent.

B1 49 Claim ~~57~~ (~~withdrawn~~): The method of claim ~~53~~, further comprising the step of providing a rice hulls component, with said rice hulls component being mixed with said fibrous wood component and said particulate wood component.

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50 Claim ~~58~~ (currently amended): The method of claim ~~53~~, further comprising the step of screening said fibrous cellulose component before mixing with ~~said fibrous cellulose component or~~ said particulate cellulose component.

Claim 59 (currently amended): An absorbent, comprising:
a fibrous cellulose component, with said fibrous cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, ~~fiber waste~~, and wood fiber fines;
a particulate cellulose component, with said particulate cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust, and sander fines; and
a binding agent, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, and soybean oil;
wherein said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component are intermixed and said binding agent binds said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component.

Claim 60 (original): The absorbent of claim 59, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 61 (original): The absorbent of claim 59, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 62 (original): The absorbent of claim 59, wherein said binding agent comprises about 0.05 percent to about 15 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 63 (original): The absorbent of claim 59, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 59 percent, said particulate cellulose component comprises about 40 percent, and said binding agent comprises about 1 percent of said absorbent.

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Claim 64 (currently amended): A method of making an absorbent, comprising the steps of:
providing a fibrous cellulose component, with said fibrous cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, ~~fiber waste~~, and wood fiber fines;

providing a particulate cellulose component, with said particulate cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust, and sander fines;

mixing said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component; and

adding a binding agent to said mixture to bind said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, and soybean oil.

Claim 65 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is petroleum.

Claim 66 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is petroleum derivatives.

Claim 67 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is oil.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is hydraulic oil.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is grease.

Claim 70 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is gasoline.

Claim 71 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is diesel.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is anit-freeze.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): The method of claim 89, wherein said liquid is solvent.

Claim 74 (withdrawn): An absorbent, comprising:

a fibrous cellulose component, with said fibrous cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines;

a particulate cellulose component, with said particulate cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust, and sander fines; and

a binding agent, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of soap products and detergents;

wherein said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component are intermixed and said binding agent binds said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component.

Claim 75 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 74, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 74, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 77 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 74, wherein said binding agent comprises about 0.05 percent to about 15 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 78 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 74, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 59 percent, said particulate cellulose component comprises about 40 percent, and said binding agent comprises about 1 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 79 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 74, wherein said absorbent comprises a pet litter.

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Claim 80 (withdrawn): A method of making a pet litter absorbent, comprising the steps of:
providing a fibrous cellulose component, with said fibrous cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines;

providing a particulate cellulose component, with said particulate cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust, and sander fines;
mixing said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component; and

adding a binding agent to said mixture to bind said fibrous cellulose component and said particulate cellulose component, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of a soap product and a detergent.

Claim 81 (withdrawn): An absorbent, comprising:
a fibrous cellulose component, with said fibrous cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines;

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a particulate cellulose component, with said particulate cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust, and sander fines;
a rice hulls component; and
a binding agent, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, and soybean oil;
wherein said fibrous cellulose component, said particulate cellulose component, and said rice hulls component are intermixed and said binding agent binds said fibrous cellulose component, said particulate cellulose component, and said rice hulls component.

Claim 82 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 81, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

B1 Claim 83 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 81, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises about 1 percent to about 99 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 84 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 81, wherein said rice hulls component comprises about 50 percent to about 80 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 85 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 81, wherein said binding agent comprises about 0.05 percent to about 15 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 86 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 81, wherein said fibrous cellulose component comprises about 24.5 percent, said particulate cellulose component comprises about 24.5 percent, said rice hulls component comprises about 50 percent, and said binding agent comprises about 1 percent of said absorbent.

Claim 87 (withdrawn): The absorbent of claim 81, wherein said absorbent comprises a drilling mud.

Claim 88 (withdrawn): A method of making a drilling mud absorbent, comprising the steps of:

providing a fibrous cellulose component, with said fibrous cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines;

providing a particulate cellulose component, with said particulate cellulose component being selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust, and sander fines;

providing a rice hulls component;

mixing said fibrous cellulose component, said particulate cellulose component, and said rice hulls component; and

adding a binding agent to said mixture to bind said fibrous cellulose component, said particulate cellulose component, and said rice hulls component, with said binding agent being selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, soap products, and detergents.

Claim 89 (currently amended): A method for absorbing liquids comprising applying an absorbent which comprises a fibrous cellulose component, a particulate cellulose component and a binding agent to a liquid to absorb said liquid, wherein said fibrous cellulose component is selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, ~~fiber waste~~ and wood fiber fines, said particulate cellulose component is selected from the group consisting of sawdust, wood flour, wood dust and sander fines and said binding agent selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product and a detergent.

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Claim ~~90~~ (new): A method for absorbing liquids comprising applying an absorbent which comprises a fibrous cellulose component, a particulate cellulose component and a binding agent to a liquid to absorb said liquid, wherein said particulate cellulose component comprises sander fines.

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Claim ~~91~~ (new): The method of claim ~~90~~, wherein said fibrous component is selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste and wood fiber fines.

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Claim ~~92~~ (new): The method of claim ~~90~~, wherein said binding agent is selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product and a detergent.

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Claim ~~93~~ (new): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said fibrous cellulose component is selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines.

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Claim ~~94~~ (new): The absorbent of claim 1, wherein said binding agent is selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product, and a detergent.

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Claim ~~95~~ (new): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said fibrous cellulose component is selected from the group consisting of wood fibers, fiber pile, chip wash solids, fiber waste, and wood fiber fines.

³⁰ ²⁶
Claim ~~96~~ (new): The absorbent of claim ~~31~~, wherein said binding agent is selected from the group consisting of light weight oil, light weight petroleum oil, mineral seal oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil, a soap product, and a detergent.